

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 238
By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to commend Peggy Sue Plum upon receiving the Tennessee Education Association's E. Harper Johnson Human Relations Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Peggy Sue Plum of Sullivan North High School and the Sullivan County Education Association is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; she has recently been selected to receive the Tennessee Education Association's E. Harper Johnson Human Relations Award; and

WHEREAS, the award is presented each year to one educator who has contributed leadership in the advancement of intergroup and interpersonal understanding; and

WHEREAS, the first in her association to ever win the prestigious award, Ms. Plum is a highly respected member of the Sullivan County community, and, since arriving eight years ago, she has served the people of the area and Tennessee in many ways, including education, volunteerism, and by fostering understanding and acceptance of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, she works tirelessly on behalf of individuals with special needs and to educate the public about the extraordinary individuals that live, work, and play in the community; in doing so, Ms. Plum participates in various community, state, and international activities that promote understanding and caring for all children; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary tenure as a spokeswoman for the Area 32 Special Olympics, Peggy Sue Plum has served as Fundraising Chair and Director of the Area 32 Games held each spring at Sullivan North High School; and

WHEREAS, she has also distinguished herself as a dedicated professional, public-spirited citizen of the highest order, and as an exceptional asset to her community by initiating

numerous programs promoting understanding and acceptance of individuals with disabilities;
and

WHEREAS, she brings together community mentors and students with disabilities in the Community and School Together Program (CAST), in addition to coordinating the Special Hands program, which creates and sells crafts produced by special education students through a cooperative; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Plum has recently organized the Raiders CAN Make a Difference food drive, in which students with Down's Syndrome collected canned food during homecoming week, and by week's end had collected more than 1,500 pounds of food for the community food bank; and

WHEREAS, she has also sponsored an Iranian family, a mother and multiple-handicapped daughter who lived with her in Piney Flats, through the Bridges Refugee program and helped facilitate another family's arrival in America; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Plum is an active and devout member of her church, and, as noted by others, she has worked without respite to champion "the cause of refugees, local and world hunger, world poverty, and engaged others in her quest for a kinder, more gentle, more caring world"; and

WHEREAS, Peggy Sue Plum has positively affected countless lives through her vision, dedication, and hard work on behalf of the causes of education, community relations, and developing a better understanding of persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional lady truly embodies the spirit and mission of the National Education Association, an organization dedicated to the public education of all children; and

WHEREAS, Peggy Sue Plum's remarkable success as an educator and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with and relate to people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, she is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people with a variety of life experiences, and she epitomizes the ideal of the compassionate educator, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Peggy Sue Plum is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Peggy Sue Plum, a compassionate educator committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, for her honorable and astute service to the children of Tennessee, congratulate her as the recipient of the Tennessee Education Association's E. Harper Johnson Human Relations Award and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of her resolution be prepared for presentation with her final clause omitted from such copy.